

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Applicant filed a supplemental IDS in the present application on May 6, 2004, which is after the date of the present non-final office action. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the references listed thereon and return a copy of form PTO-1449, a copy of which is attached, after the Examiner has initialed all listed references.

Claims 1, 5, 11, 19, 23 and 29, which were allowed in the office action issued on November 25, 2003, are now rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious in view of the combination of Friederich and Wang. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner asserts that Friederich discloses all claimed elements of the present invention except for the following features:

- (1) a first compression method that compresses an attribution record group so that it can be decompressed faster than an attribution record group compressed by a second compression method
- (2) the second compression method compresses an attribution record group so that a compression rate is higher than that of the first compression method

The Examiner further asserts that “[a]s we (sic) known that the more compressed and uncompressed data would time (sic) much time to decompress, that (sic) is the tradeoff between the compression and decompression based on the rate and the faster or short time.” The

Examiner cites Figs. 2 and 5, and col. 7, lines 15-67 and col. 8, lines 1-24, of Wang as support for the above assertions.

The Examiner has failed to appreciate that the present invention provides the unexpected results of minimizing required database storage capacity while at the same time minimizing database search and associated processing time. Specifically, claims 1 and 19 as amended are directed to an apparatus (claim 1) and method (claim 19) in which a search key attribution record group is used for abstracting data. For example, as discussed on page 17 in connection with the fourth disclosed embodiment of the present invention, attribution Ac is a search key, and has a compression level that is capable of being decompressed at a high rate the search process to be initialized faster than search processes in conventional database management / record retrieval architectures. Moreover, each of the attributions Bc – Ec each include data that is compressed at a higher ratio than the data in the attribution Ac, and that is decompressed only when the attributions include data that matches data in the attribution Ac subsequent to the attribution Ac being decompressed and searched.

The above unexpected results are therefore achieved by providing the use of the aforementioned two levels of data compression, and by decompressing data only when the data matches that in a search key (attribution Ac).

The combination of Friederich and Wang does not teach or suggest these features. Friederich discloses a data compression system used for a navigation application program. However, Friederich is deficient in its teachings at least for the reasons noted by the Examiner.

Wang shows an MPEG encoder 200 (Fig. 2) and a simplified transcoder 500 (Fig. 5) both of the type used in the encoding and decoding system shown in Fig. 1. The encoder 200 is for use with uncompressed data (col. 7, lines 14-15), while the transcoder 500 is for use with pre-compressed data (col. 8, lines 12-15; col. 7, lines 57-60). Therefore, it appears that the system in

Wang is capable of processing both compressed data and uncompressed data, and not data that is compressed at two separate ratios of compression as in the present invention. Further, the Wang system is completely unrelated to a database system and search method in which data is decompressed only when the data matches that in a search key.

Regarding Wang, Applicant respectfully questions the procedural validity of using this reference for a 103(a) rejection, as it is not analogous to the present invention. In order for the Examiner to rely on a reference as a basis for an obvious rejection, the reference must be analogous to the Applicant's invention. The reference is analogous if it is in the field of Applicant's endeavor or, if not, is reasonably pertinent to the particular problem with which the inventor was concerned. (See *In re Oetiker*, 977 F.2d 1443, 1446 (Fed. Cir. 1992), MPEP 2141.01(a) Rev. 1, Feb. 2000.) Wang relates to allocating bits in a stat mux system, and specifically to a stat mux that accommodates both pre-compressed and uncompressed video programs using transcoding and encoding. (See col. 2, lines 31-34.) This reference is therefore in no way pertinent to the database managing apparatus and record retrieving apparatus of the present invention.

In addition, one skilled in the art would not be motivated to combine Wang with Friederich for the same reasons given above regarding why Wang is nonanalogous to the present invention. The Examiner is reminded that there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. (See *In re Vaeck*, 947 F.2d 488 (Fed. Cir. 1991), cited in MPEP 2142, Aug. 2001.) What motivation exists to combine these references? The Examiner's reasoning for combining these references is tenuous at best and difficult to understand. Clarification is respectfully requested if assuming *arguendo* the Examiner maintains the present rejection.

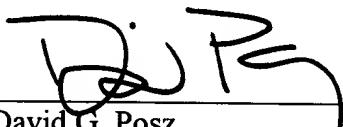
Therefore, as the combination of cited references fails to render the presently claimed invention obvious, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw his rejection of claims 1, 5, 11, 19, 23 and 29 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

The Examiner should note that new claims 41-48 have been added to recite features of the present invention that further distinguish the present invention from the art of record.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. A timely notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If questions relating to patentability remain, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

Please charge any unforeseen fees that may be due to Deposit Account No. 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,



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